



NEWS RELEASE

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Greater Augusta Utility District seeks Corps of Engineers permit to place fill material to conduct sewer project work in Augusta

CONCORD, Mass. – The Greater Augusta Utility District is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with a sewer project in Augusta, Maine.

The applicant proposes to place approximately 36,110 square feet of fill below the high tide line of Bond Brook, its tributaries and in adjacent wetlands in Augusta in conjunction with the construction of a new sewer interceptor, installation of a storage conduit pipe, pump station replacement, and construction of a new sewer force main associated with a combined sewer overflow project. The work is proposed in Bond Brook and adjacent wetlands at Mt. Vernon Avenue, Bond Street, Northern Avenue, and Water Street in Augusta.

The project will impact 0.209 acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Atlantic salmon and/or shortnose sturgeon. This habitat consists of intertidal/subtidal area consisting of mixed coarse and fine sediments. Temporary loss of this habitat may adversely affect the Atlantic salmon and/or shorenose sturgeon associated with temporary turbidity in the water column during construction and restoration efforts in the stream bed. Impacts to these species are expected to be minimal with appropriate erosion control measures, in stream work windows, and other best management practices. The proposed project is expected to have only short-term impacts on fish. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final permit decision.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands; and with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

More information on the proposed work is available from the public notice that can be viewed on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then weekly public notices.

Public comments referencing this notice (File # NAE-2010-01292) should be forwarded no later than Nov. 16, 2010 to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Maine Project Office (ATTN: LeeAnn Neal), 675 Western Ave., #3, Manchester, Maine 04351. Additional information is available from Permit Project Manager LeeAnn Neal at 207-623-8367 (Ext. 2) or by email to leeann.neal@usace.army.mil.

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